

THE AUSTRALIAN FLUORIDATION NEWS

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IS WATER POLLUTION



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Fire-Fighting Fluoride Foam Exposé

An ABC Four Corners exposé has shown how the Australian Defence Force in particular continued to use toxic fire-fighting PFAS chemicals even after multiple warnings, withholding the information and risking people's lives, health and the environment.

The Four Corners program "Contamination" (9th Oct 2017) details how the fire-repellent foam was used in fire-fighting exercises and real fires since the 1970s.

Runoff from the PFAS chemicals reached local creeks and soaked into groundwater, affecting community water supplies and bore water.

PFAS levels in various areas are over the "safe" limit and potentially long-term health effects (including cancer) are affecting thousands of families around the country.

As Four Corners reports, *"the Defence Department knew about the dangers of the foam as early as 1987 but continued to use it for decades, but most disturbingly of all, deliberately with-held the knowledge from the public."*

A consultant's report for the Defence Dept in 1987 stated that *"the wastes will be collected ... for handling as a 'toxic' waste."* The report also directed that the foam *"must be prevented from entering stormwater systems, ponds and groundwater except in an emergency"* due to possible groundwater contamination.

Yet that is what has been happening since the 1980s. The proper handling and usage procedures were not communicated to those doing the firefighting, nor had the further warnings over the years.

The acronym PFAS refers to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. The "F" or "fluoro" refers to fluorine, and we observe that those who know about fluorides and fluoridation will already be wanting to steer clear of these chemicals.

PFAS may also be present in water and stain-resistant items (carpet, furniture, clothes), teflon and greaseproof food wraps.

PFAS accumulates in the environment: in water, soil and the food chain. Many people have trace amounts of PFAS in the blood, but in larger quantities these can be hazardous.

Katherine (NT), Oakey (QLD), Williamtown (NSW)

Four Corners went to three of the 18 areas affected with PFAS leaching from Defence bases.

Katherine is above the Tindal underground aquifer, one of the largest in the Northern Territory. The nearby Tyndal RAAF base opened in 1989, but right from the beginning, with poor containment procedures, the base was polluting the aquifer. Defence testing in different locations in Katherine included results 14 times and even 80 times the safe level.

The groundwater at Oakey (QLD), west of Brisbane and Toowoomba, contains PFAS up to 300 times above the safe level. There is currently a class action against Defence.

"Don't be alarmed, this is the new asbestos."
- Defence Department employee, Oakey 2014

An Oakey resident recalled being advised by Defence in 2014 at a public meeting: *"Don't be alarmed, this is the new asbestos.' Those words exactly... And that being the new asbestos, 'Don't drink the water'. And more or less, 'We'll get back to you on everything else.'"*

At Williamtown, north of Newcastle (NSW), Defence knew in May 2012 there was an issue but kept quiet a further three years, when the affected area was declared a "Red Zone".

PFAS is still running off the Williamtown base into surrounding creeks, at between 12 to 18 times the safe drinking level, measured just weeks before this exposé was broadcast. A second class action against Defence is underway.

Prof Phillipe Grandjean (Harvard) is an internationally recognised scientist who has studied PFAS for a decade:

"[PFAS chemicals] stay in the human body for many, many years. If you continue to be exposed, let's say from PFAS in drinking water, you will build up concentrations

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in your body and with time... some adverse effects to your health [may happen]. We are concerned about the long term effects on human health."

Grandjean refers to a study linking PFAS to testicular and kidney cancers, and adds prostate cancer as a concern, as well as thyroid, cardiovascular disease and the immune system.

While the Australian Defence Department says the risks are unproven, Prof Grandjean says the balance between uncertainty and scientific proof has tipped toward taking action: "We have to do more to protect people from these exposures."

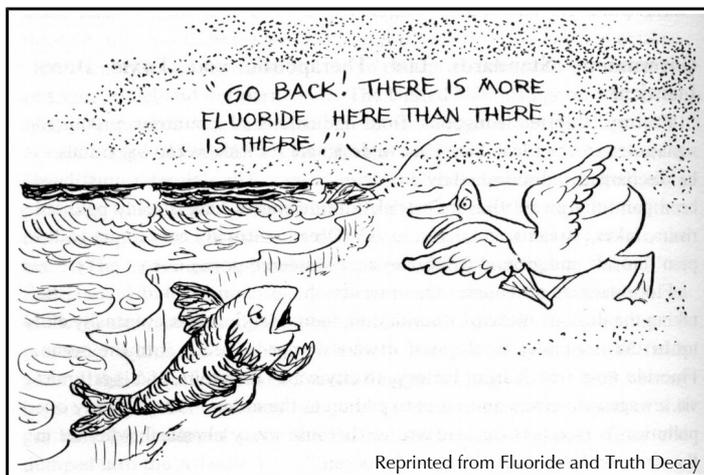
After an internal Defence report in 2003 detailed human health effects including cancer, it was decided to quietly stop using the chemical. It took another seven years to phase it out.

PFAS chemicals have been detected at over 70 locations, including the 18 Defence bases, firestations and airports.

Further Comments:

While creeks and drains leaving bases can be filtered and cleaned up, PFAS contaminated groundwater cannot. This illustrates a further, potentially even larger-scale groundwater contamination, from the deliberate pressurised pumping of various toxic chemicals (including other fluorides) into the ground, known as "fracking" for Coal Seam Gas (CSG).

ABC Four Corners covered water fluoridation in their program "Shades of Doubt" in 1979 which rocked the foundations of fluoridation in Australia. Seeing the bags of sodium silicofluoride, replete with the word "POISON" and skull and cross bones, compelled many to rethink fluoridation.



Four Corners has again done a great job of exposing the hazardous nature of fluorides, though this time without specifically identifying the element fluoride. The toxic, cumulative nature of PFAS chemicals will play out for years to come, with expensive cleanup programs, the challenges of health effects manifesting, devalued properties and lives adversely affected.

So often chemicals are tested for the desired function but not for their long term health effects. We have to be far more wary of the chemical industry, demand transparency and call the industry (and their product's users) to account.

Sources: 1: www.abc.net.au/4corners/contamination/9032140
2: Assistant Secretary of the [US] Navy Energy, Installations and Environment, www.secnav.navy.mil/eie/Pages/PFC-PFAS.aspx

Perth's dead dolphins accumulated fluoride compounds

Dolphins found dead in Perth's Swan River have tested positive for perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) that are restricted in some countries and several Australian states. Tissue samples from the dolphins tested at the highest levels of PFCs found in Australia. PFCs are also referred to as Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

PFC/PFAS do not occur in nature but are created by industry, such as PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate). They persist in the environment, accumulate in bodies, and cause developmental and reproductive harms, as fluoride compounds do.

PerthNow.com.au reports (9 March 2017) that:

"The documents also reveal Perth's aquifers, which provide almost half the city's drinking water, may be contaminated and that the Environment Minister knew about the situation in June but said nothing..."

"Previously undisclosed correspondence shows the Swan River dolphins had the highest levels of PFCs in the country – up to 100 times higher than dolphins from Bunbury.

"Potential sources of the pollutants included a drain near Perth Airport that flows into the Swan River, along with Pearce Airbase via Ellen Brook."

According to *PerthNow*, tissue samples from Perth's dolphins were sent last year to Adelaide "as part of an inquiry into the deaths of dolphins in that state."

The Adelaide Advertiser (20 Dec 2016 [Paywall]) reported that the deaths of at least 50 dolphins in St Vincent Gulf in 2013 was due to a "disease related to measles".

Is it just a coincidence that instead of the dolphin deaths being caused by toxins (that authorities prefer not to mention) like PFOA, PFOS and other chemicals, it is attributed to one of

the usual suspects, a big media hobby horse that we're all supposed to be scared of?

The Four Corners exposé "Contaminated" (reviewed above) showed a map of Defence bases as sources of leaching firefighting foam, which included both Perth and near Adelaide.

Previously *PerthNow* (20 May 2016) reported that a dolphin named Pirulli, known to frequent the Swan River since 2009 was found dead near Elizabeth Wharf, along with a smaller dolphin believed to be her calf.

Such events emphasise the need to find and eliminate the pollution sources, to keep them out of drinking water and river systems. Given the political response so far, this information needs to be spread far and wide, with more people demanding action and greater awareness of harmful fluoride chemicals.

Sources:

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/toxic-agents-present-in-swan-river-dolphins/news-story/fc65c27b4412b6d65b252d75c95cee50> (March 9, 2017)
<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/swan-river-dolphin-pirulli-and-calf-found-dead-near-elizabeth-quay/news-story/8e16436c0b61c55a3bf3dcaeb7681f4> (May 20, 2016)
The Adelaide Advertiser (Paywall) (20 Dec 2016) "Researchers find the cause of death for at least 50 dolphins in Gulf of St Vincent..."
Assistant Secretary of the [US] Navy Energy, Installations and Environment, <http://www.secnav.navy.mil/eie/Pages/PFC-PFAS.aspx>
The Australian Fluoridation News (Jan-Mar 2016, Vol 52, No 1, p4), "Environmentalists target fluoridated (PFC) gear companies".

Tributes for Anti-Fluoridation Legends

The last 12 months has seen the transition of three long-time fluoridation opponents and defenders of human rights.

Vale Mary Walker nee Cheese

(20-9-1924 – 13-12-2016)

Mary was born in September 1924 on King Island, renowned for its pure air from the Southern Ocean, its mineral rich soil, thanks to the seaweed washed ashore on the western side and spread by farmers on their land, and its high quality cream and cheeses sold throughout Australia.

After moving to Melbourne and working as a nurse/counsellor from 1960, she became aware of the high toxicity of fluoride chemicals, their damaging effect on the human body, and schemes to artificially add fluorides to public drinking water supplies.

During this period she met Glen S.R. Walker, whose wife had recently died after being cared for by Glen and his family. He felt her loss deeply and attended a group receiving counselling. They became close friends and married in 1973.

Mary was a hard working member of the Anti-Fluoridation Association of Victoria, raising funds for many years by cooking and selling fluoride-free marmalade and sometimes scones from the boot of her car on weekends, with many people returning to buy multiple jars of marmalade. Few could resist.

Glen Walker [FIMF, EMECS, MAES, Emeritus Member of the Electrochemical Society, USA], had an extensive knowledge of fluoride chemicals, and was alerted to their use in public water supplies by Mary. Although Glen was initially reluctant to become involved in the anti-fluoridation movement, he soon saw the bigger picture.

As a result of Mary's introduction, Glen became deeply involved in the Association, becoming Chairman, speaking on radio and at public meetings throughout Australia, sometimes with Dr Philip Sutton and other prominent speakers on the subject, including Dr Dean Burk, the USA's leading cancer researcher at the time, who showed how the incidence of cancer increased when water supplies were fluoridated.

Mary had accompanied and supported Glen in his travels. Glen also made numerous submissions to Parliamentary and Council inquiries into fluoridation, culminating in his book, *"Fluoridation Poison on Tap"*.

Mary was his rock of support, embracing her role of care. While it was Glen in the spotlight, it was a team effort and Mary and Glen have been stalwarts of the awareness of fluoridation in Australia for decades.

Mary was also a chorus member and occasional lead member of an opera group and a volunteer reader on community radio, spending hours every week reading books for the benefit of sight-impaired listeners.

The writer and his wife had the pleasure of having dinner at their home on several occasions; delicious scrambled eggs was a favourite. Their night out was a dinner on Sunday night as familiar patrons at a city hotel restaurant.

Mary was a home nurse for Glen in his last years, and aware of his ever declining health, urged him to give up his battle

against fluoridation and its infringement on human rights, but without success.

She must have felt his loss deeply, but stoically appeared to cope well to the outsider, no doubt from her experience of life as a nurse/counsellor.

Mary was an example to us all, working for the health and better good of mankind with compassion and care. She passed away in her ninety-third year, on the 13th December 2016.

Vale Shirley Howard (04-01-1928 – 01-01-2017)

Shirley was born early in Jan 1928, the daughter of Gladys and Charles Howard.

She became aware of fluoridation in 1973 when living in Bendigo and saw a poster for an evening talk about the Victorian Government's new fluoridation plans and legislation. Shirley attended and from that point on, she was always involved wherever she was - on committees (first in Bendigo then Melbourne), even travelling great distances to meetings.

She was genuinely interested in people's stories and in sharing the word on fluoridation and other areas of concern, particularly health and people's welfare.

The name Shirley used to be more common than it is now, and she was member of the "Shirley club" and wore a badge to prove it, which as was always a good conversation starter.

Shirley was also an advocate of freedom and followed the work of the League of Rights, which had begun in Australia in the early 1960s, around the same time that the Anti-Fluoridation Association of Victoria had started.

Shirley had great capacity to comprehend the bigger picture, and express it by asking great questions. As a mother and grandmother, it was hard for her to understand how fluoridators would adversely affect their own kids and grandkids with fluoride, as a tap water filter only is a part solution and there are many other sources of fluorides.

Shirley was a devout Christian and had faith that fluoridation would nevertheless end. Shirley will be sadly missed.

Vale Catharine P Allerts (9-12-1950 – 22-05-2017)

Catharine was born on the 9th December 1950 in Holland. She grew up there and at the age of ten, moved with her family to Australia.

She studied at Monash University and earned her degree in Politics, working in Australia and also in The Netherlands.

Her father had died many years earlier. Her husband died a decade ago.

She was aware of the battle in the 1970s to remove fluoridation in The Netherlands but had not followed it closely.

Around 2007, Catharine became aware that fluoridation was widespread in Australia. It took her a couple of months to get over the shock that she and her family had been drinking fluoridated water since arriving in Australia.

Basic research showed severe effects on health, as well as the abrogation of human rights that fluoridation entails, with the state not the individual deciding what every person drinks.

She joined the Anti-Fluoridation Association of Victoria and took to the organisational and informational sides with gusto; printing, posting and delivering to letterboxes and advising people about fluoridation wherever she was. She ran the office, organising stationery, supplies and printing.

People came away with a new perspective on fluorides and fluoridation and the effects of these conversations will continue to ripple out to others.

Catharine was very capable with writing and grammar and would often have suggestions for how to improve articles. Or to translate an article from Dutch to English, as she did with Hans Moolenburgh's book chapter on water from "To Your Health!" See *The Australian Fluoridation News*, Oct-Dec 2009, pp 6-11.

Similarly she worked on a revised and expanded edition of Ian E. Stephens booklet (*The Dickinson Statement – A Mind Boggling Thesis*), published by The Australian Anti-Fluoridation Association following the 25th anniversary of the original.

Catharine was instrumental in obtaining copies of the book *Fluoride Fatigue* ("Fluoride Poisoning: is fluoride in your drinking

water - and from other sources - making you sick?") by Dr Bruce Spittle, which continues to be distributed widely in Australia.

Catharine collaborated and corresponded with many around Australia and internationally. Many will feel the loss.

She contributed much effort, more than most, to get the word out on the effects of fluoridation and other related issues, often involving health. The words continue to ripple out, that we can consider choosing better, safer approaches.

She passed away on 22nd May 2017 and will be greatly missed.

By John Webber and Victorian members of the Australian Anti-Fluoridation Association. The authors apologise for any errors or omissions in the text.

A Question to Consider

Why did these courageous people give so much of their time and energy to learning and communicating the real nature of fluoridation? Once we discover the real nature of fluorides and the harms caused, we can't go back to not knowing, nor would we want to. In time, we will all better understand, appreciate and experience the world these courageous people were creating, where instead of being fluoridated, people are respected.

Higher Maternal Fluoride Intake Lowers Childrens' IQ

A new study published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* shows a link between fluoride in the urine of pregnant women and notably lower measures of intelligence, a drop of around five to six IQ points.

Researchers at the University of Toronto tracked the levels of fluoride in the urine of 300 sets of mothers and their children in Mexico, finding lower cognitive function scores at the ages of four and six to twelve.

Mexico does not fluoridate its water but people do receive fluoride through other sources, like fluoridated salt and possibly imported food and products.

According to New York University Langone Health Pediatrician Dr Leonardo Trasande, who was not involved in the study, the levels of fluoride are only slightly higher than the typical American mother might expect from drinking tap water fluoridated at 0.7ppm (mg/L).

The Fluoride Action Network (FAN) stated that "the average fluoride intake in the Mexican mothers was about the same as that in women in the USA", adding that "the higher levels were similar to what is found in areas in the USA with fluoridated water, and the lower levels were similar to what is found in most unfluoridated parts of the USA."

FAN assessed that "most of the Mexican women had urine fluoride between 0.5 and 1.5 mg/L. Studies have found that adults in the USA have between about 0.6 and 1.5 mg/L, almost exactly the same range. **From the low end of that range to the high end is a difference of 1 mg/L which is what caused the 5 to 6 IQ point difference in the children of the study mothers.**"

Even after accounting for exposure to other factors (including other chemicals), this study confirmed the conclusion of many other studies, that fluoride can lower IQ.

Most regions in Australia that fluoridate do so at 1.0 mg/l (ppm), higher than the newer US standard of 0.7 mg/l. We must remove cumulative fluoridation before each generation's IQ is reduced to where we can no longer question or think critically.

We ask that you find the courage within and the imperative to spread the word even further than previously and make a difference in others' lives.

Sources:

www.naturalnews.com/2017-11-08-more-science-confirms-fluoride-exposure-damages-brains-and-lowers-iqs-in-newborns.html

<http://fluoridealert.org/articles/fluoride-exposure-in-utero-linked-to-lower-iq-in-kids-new-study-says/> (19 Sep 2017)

Bashash M, Thomas D, Hu H, et al. 2017. [Prenatal Fluoride Exposure and Cognitive Outcomes in Children at 4 and 6–12 Years of Age in Mexico.](https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/ehp655/) - <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/ehp655/>

New Fluoride Petitions for States & Commonwealth

See www.healthymoneyvine.com/fluoridated-water.html to download the petition(s) and further information.

**Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year
Best wishes to all, take the time to rest and recuperate for the new year. Thank you for supporting us in this humanitarian, people's rights endeavour.**

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There will be no 4th Edition 2017, but will resume in 2018

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